

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 12 as follows:

AI | Connected to the image processing apparatus 14 are a manipulating unit 18 having a keyboard 18a and a mouse 18b for inputting (setting) various conditions, selecting and commanding a processing step of such as, as described below, a method of a blemish elimination processing and a display 20 for displaying the image read with the scanner 12, various manipulating commands and screens for setting and registering various conditions.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 19 and 20 as follows:

20 | Now, the preprocessing subsection 48a is a site which is characteristic to the present invention and is arranged such that, while the preprocessing, which is performed before the blemish elimination processing, is an individual step separated from the blemish elimination processing subsection 48b and the preprocessing is performed during the time or before the image on the film is fine scanned by a visible light. The defective image read by the infrared light, in which a blur is likely to be generated in the image read by a lens of the imaging lens unit 32, is subjected to edge enhancement processing so as to enhance an edge of a defective portion, emphasize a boundary thereof and then define the position of the defect.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 20 and 21 as follows:

AB The preprocessing subsection 48a evaluates whether image data which is smaller than a given threshold value is present or not before the preprocessing by the edge enhancement is performed and then, being based on the threshold value, automatically judges or evaluates whether the blemish is present or not. Further, the defective image is displayed on the monitor 20 and then the operator may judge or evaluate the presence or absence of the blemish while looking at the thus displayed defective image. When it is judged that the blemish is absent or that a degree of the blemish is not so large as that which necessitates the blemish elimination processing, the defective image is ~~direct~~directly sent to the image processing subsection 48c, without being subjected to the preprocessing to be performed in the preprocessing subsection 48a or the blemish elimination processing to be performed in the blemish elimination processing subsection 48b. By taking the above arrangement, processing time used for the preprocessing or the blemish elimination processing is shortened to enhance processing efficiency.

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 25 as follows:

AL Further, ~~when the preprocessing to be performed by the preprocessing subsection 48a is executed at the time of reading the actual image by the fine scan, at the latest.~~

Please amend the second full paragraph on page 25 as follows:

AG On this occasion, when the preprocessing subsection 48a extracts the pixel position of the defective portion from the binary coded image data as a numeral to store it in a table of the blemish elimination processing subsection 48b, it is preferably arranged that the pixel position of the blemish is stored in the table of the blemish elimination processing subsection 48b by the time the image data of the actual image data obtained by the fine scan of the scanner 12 is sent to

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AB
CDL the blemish elimination processing subsection 48b (completion of obtaining the actual image).

In doing so, at the time of the blemish elimination processing of the actual image, the pixel
position of the blemish can rapidly be read to perform the above-described blemish elimination
processing on the actual image.
